

Outpatient / Hospitalization:

In October 1996, Congress passed Public Law 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. The legislation led the way for the creation of Uniform Benefits Package, a standard health benefit plan available to all veterans. The package not only opens up services to veterans, but simplifies the process by which veterans can receive the services. For the first time, VA can offer enrolled veterans a Uniform Benefits Package that emphasizes preventive medicine and primary care, and that provides a comprehensive healthcare benefit plan including inpatient and outpatient treatment. The law has simplified the rules for providing healthcare to veterans. It has also streamlined the process by which veterans present themselves for care the enrollment process. These changes will make it easier for veterans to receive care than ever before.

Priority Group 1 Veterans with service-connected conditions rated 50 percent or more disabling
Priority Group 2 Veterans with service-connected conditions rated 30 to 40 percent or more disabling

Priority Group 3 Veterans who are former POWs Veterans with service-connected conditions rated 10 or 20 percent disabling Veterans discharged from active duty for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under 38 U.S.C. , Section 1151

Priority Group 4 Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits. Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

Priority Group 5 Nonservice-connected veterans and service-connected veterans rated zero percent disabled, whose income and net worth are below the established dollar thresholds

Priority Group 6 All other eligible veterans who are not required to make co-payments for their care, including: ó World War I and Mexican Border War veterans ó Veterans solely seeking care for disorders associated with exposure to a toxic substance, radiation, or for disorders associated with service in the Persian Gulf ó Compensable zero percent service-connected veterans

Priority Group 7 Nonservice-connected veteran and zero percent non-compensable service-connected veterans with income and net worth above the statutory threshold and who agree to pay specified co-payments